

North Uist Community Council Meeting Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath



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| MINUTES | Date: Tuesday 10 th December 2019 | Location: Taigh Sgìre Sholais 7.00PM |
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| Present: | John MacDonald – Treasurer (JMD) | Ragnall Maclain (RMI) |
| | Sarah MacDonald - Chairperson (SMD) | Lee MacDougall (LMD) |
| | Joan Ferguson – Vice-chairperson (JF) | Kenneth MacDonald (KMD) |
| | Michelle MacDonald - Secretary (MMD) | Marion MacCorquodale (MMC) |
| | Donald Ewan Morrison (DEM) | Domhnall Angie MacLellan (DAML) |

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| Apologies: | Rachel MacLean | Sheena Stewart |
| | Connor Lawless | Cllr Iain MacLead |
| | Effie Rodgers | Cllr Roddy MacKay |

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| Public: | John MacAulay | Joan MacDonald |
| | Elaine MacLennan | |

| | Agenda Item | Action |
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| 1. | <p><i>Appointment of Clerk:</i> JF proposed Michelle MacDonald be nominated for Clerk, DEM Seconded this nomination. It was agreed that Michelle MacDonald be appointed as Clerk to the North Uist Community Council.</p> | |
| 2. | <p>SMD went over slight change made to the constitution. Everyone agreed they have read and are happy with the constitution. The constitution was then signed by the Chair and Vice-Chair.</p> | |
| 3. | <p><i>Adoption of minutes from last meeting:</i> It was agreed that no names should be put to decisions made at the meetings, instead make clear that any decisions are made as a council as a whole and not by a single person. Names for actions still to be included. JF proposed the minutes from previous meeting, JMD seconded the minutes.</p> | |
| 4. | <p><i>JMM gave treasurers report.</i> There is £1000 to be spent by March 2020. £200 of this money is to go towards the Flag. There was a suggestion to spend some of the money on Christmas dinners.</p> | |

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| 5. | <p><i>Matters arising from previous meeting:</i></p> <p>Training for office bearers – JF reported that Derek MacKay at CnES had been contacted and that training would not be given until February at the earliest.</p> <p>Transparency and Minutes – Suggestion of website for North Uist Community Council and social media accounts. It was decided that a website would be useful but that social media may be a bit too much responsibility for one person. It was agreed that any kind of website is not controlled by one person only, so that in a change of office bearers, the website can still be accessed and information/correspondence is not lost. It was agreed that the minutes would be drafted up within 10 days of the meeting and be circulated to committee members with a deadline to make comments or any adjustments.</p> <p>Lochmaddy Pier – JF reported that the pier development is scheduled to start on 21st September 2020. There is concern that this could cause disruption on the run up to Christmas.</p> <p>Honorarium for secretary and treasurer – JMD and MMD were both offered and decided not to take honorarium.</p> <p>War memorial Fund – JMD still waiting for written quote for replacement of existing benches for memorial at Clachan. Hoping to have quote for next meeting.</p> | |
| 6. | <p><i>North Uist Flag – Sheena Stewart</i></p> <p>SMD reported that she has not yet heard from Sheena Stewart. JMD reported that councilors were giving £750 towards the flag and £400 is coming from the NUCC (£200 from flag grant, £200 from CC grant). JMD informed that the money is needed before the flag can be made.</p> | <p>SMD to get letter from Sheena Stewart confirming price.</p> |
| 7. | <p><i>Christmas Dinners</i></p> <p>JMD reported that he received confirmation that Trianaid have received funding previously for Christmas dinners. Westside, Carinish, Grimsay and Taigh Sgire Shollas all received £300 each for Christmas Dinners. Grimsay and Westside received £600 each this year as they did not receive their funding last year (£300 from this year's grant, £300 from last year's grant). Trianaid sent a fund request form for £200 for Christmas lunch which the council agreed to give out of the CC grant.</p> | |

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| 8. | <p><i>Gaelic Debate Team</i></p> <p>SMD congratulated Marion and her debate team from Sgoil Lionacleit on winning the National Gaelic Schools Debate 2019.</p> | |
| 9. | <p><i>Letter received from member of public</i></p> <p>Letter received raising the following issues;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of road signs in Knockline warning drivers of children playing. • Maintaining grounds around Kilmuir Church. • Preserving old historical buildings such as the churches and digitization of grave stones before letting starts to disappear. • Possibility of another bench outside the old Church at Kilmuir Cemetery. JF Clarified that another bench would cost £250 | <p>DEM to speak to Angus about road signage.</p> <p>Cathy Laing and Morag MacDonald to be invited to next meeting.</p> |
| 10. | <p><i>Road Flooding</i></p> <p>Reported that road flooding is becoming quite an issue all around North Uist and roads have become dangerous in heavy rain.</p> | <p>All CC members to take note of where they notice the flooding particularly bad, to discuss at next meeting.</p> |
| 11. | <p><i>Parking ground between Morrison's shop and Redburn House</i></p> <p>DAML raised the issue about the state of the parking area between Redburn house and Morrison's shop – it has become very dangerous and there has been a few incidents where people have fallen and injured themselves due to the pot holes and bad state of the ground. There is uncertainty over who owns the ground and whose responsibility it is to fix.</p> <p>RMI reported that the road from Lochmaddy to past the old school was paid for and tarred by the council but that the state of the road has been brought up at community council meetings a few times but the council are not taking responsibility for the road.</p> | <p>DEM to contact Angus MacDonald clarify ownership of the ground SMD to email Uisdean Robertson to chase the issue.</p> |

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| <p>12.</p> | <p><i>Display of postcodes in public buildings</i> RMI reported an incident in Carinish Hall when the ambulance was needed to be called but couldn't until the postcode of the hall was found. Eventually it was located on a small piece of paper but it took a while to find and in emergencies the time it took to find the postcode could be the difference between life and death as an ambulance cannot be sent without the postcode of the location. It was suggested that it is a good idea to promote to community halls, shops and churches to have their post code and grid references on display and easy to see/ find in the case of an emergency where an ambulance needed to be called. RMI raised the subject of the new locating app which is very useful in emergency situations – the app finds your location to a 3x3^m2 and gives 3 words to describe your location which can then be given to the emergency services and they will be able to find your exact location, this can be used in situations where you do not know your grid reference or postcode for example if you were stuck up a hill. The app is called 'What 3 words' and can be used as long as your phone has signal.</p> | |
| <p>13.</p> | <p><i>Heavy Traffic on Committee road</i> RMI raised the issue of heavy traffic using the committee road, particularly at night time. It was suggested that this could be Mort's being transported.</p> | <p>SMD to invite Angus MacDonald (Kyles) to next meeting.</p> |
| <p>14.</p> | <p><i>Abandoned vehicles</i> JMD raised the issue regarding the dumped boat at Langass as well as the dumped cars at Locheport road end. JF reported that she has spoken with Lisa Johnson Environmental Health Officer at CnES who clarified that it is only the council's responsibility to remove dumped vehicles if they are on council property, if they are on the public highway then it is the police's responsibility. The cars abandoned at Locheport road end are on council property so there are being currently dealt with by the council. It was also raised that abandoned vehicles are also becoming a problem in Lochmaddy.</p> | <p>KMD to invite Ewen Morrison to next meeting to discuss this matter.</p> |
| <p>15.</p> | <p><i>Lochmaddy Slaughterhouse</i> The status of the slaughterhouse was questioned – It was reported that as far as the community council is aware it is closed and there are no plans to open up again. Shortage of vets is an issue.</p> | <p>Councilors to shed some light on the matter at the next meeting.</p> |

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| 16. | <p><i>Scolpaig Tower</i> The issue was raised that there is no signage leading to Scolpaig Tower and no display signs telling of its history.</p> | <p>JF to contact Catriona MacCuish to see if the Còmunn Eachdraidh Uibhist a Tuath have ever tried to get signs/information displays.</p> |
| 17. | <p><i>Trianaid – Christmas Dinner</i> Trianaid submitted a funding request for £200 for their Christmas dinner. All members were in agreement to grant the request.</p> | |
| 18. | <p><i>Funding requests</i> It was agreed that any groups/committees looking for funding from the community council fill out a funding application form in order to keep track of funds given out</p> | |
| 19. | <p><i>Hosta Party</i> It was agreed that £300 would be given from the community council grant to the North Uist Agricultural Society to contribute to costs of the Hosta Party.</p> | |
| | <p>Date of next meeting: Tuesday 28th January, Hosta Hall at 7.00pm</p> | |

| | Action items | Person responsible |
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| 1. | Discuss with Angus MacDonald CnES about possibility of road signs in Knockline. | Donald Ewen Morrison |
| 2. | Contact Angus MacDonald CnES to clarify ownership of parking between Morrisons shop and Redburn house, Lochmaddy | Donald Ewen Morrison |
| 3. | Uisdean Robertson to be contacted to discuss issue in Lochmaddy regarding road surface | Sarah MacDonald |
| 4. | Take note of areas of North Uist affected by flooding | All Members |
| 5. | Ewen Morrison to be invited to meeting on 28 th of January 2020 | Kenneth MacDonald |
| 6. | Contact Catriona MacCuish (Còmun Eachdraidh Uibhist a Tuath) about signs/information displays at Scolpaig Tower | Joan Ferguson |
| 7. | Contact Sheena Stewart for price of flag | Sarah MacDonald |
| 8. | Angus MacDonald (Kyles) to be invited to next meeting | Sarah MacDonald |